

Message Text

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APPROVED BY D - RWDUEMLING

ARA - MR. LUERS

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 115996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: BILATERAL MEETING OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER OF VENEZUELA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR AND AMBASSADOR BURELLI WERE
RECEIVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ON MAY 16.

2. AMONG SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS COVERED, BOTH AGREED AS TO
DESIRABILITY OF STRENGTHENED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, WITH
FONMIN SEEING THIS AS MEANS OF LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR
CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT DURING COURSE OF FUTURE VISIT TO
VENEZUELA BY THE SECRETARY. HE SAID THAT SOON AFTER HIS
MAY 20 RETURN TO CARACAS HE WOULD BE SEEING AMBASSADOR
SHLAUDEMAN TO ARRANGE FOR A SMALL GROUP REPRESENTING GOV
AND EMBASSY CARACAS TO WORK OUT FORM AND CHARACTER OF
FUTURE BILATERAL DEALINGS.

3. REGARDING CUBA, FOREIGN MINISTER EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE
OF HAVING SOME TARGET DATE FOR DISPOSING OF CUBAN PROBLEM
AND OPENING THE WAY FOR CONCENTRATION ON OTHER ASPECTS OF
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INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION.

4. ESCOVAR SUGGESTED PROGRESS ON PANAMA CANAL EASIER

BECAUSE CANAL NOW LESS IMPORTANT THAN PREVIOUSLY TO USG.
DEPUTY SECRETARY DISAGREED WITH THIS VIEW, EXPLAINED SOME
OF INTERNAL USG PROBLEMS COMPLICATING THIS MATTER, BUT
EXPRESSED BELIEF REASONABLE SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE.

5. DEPUTY SECRETARY REFERRED TO USG READINESS EXAMINE
NEW WAYS MOVING AHEAD ON COMMODITY ISSUES, AND FOREIGN
MINISTER ESCOVAR SAID SECRETARY'S KANSAS CITY SPEECH NOW
BEING ANALYZED IN CARACAS AND VENEZUELAN COMMENT WOULD BE
PROVIDED TO AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN.

6. ON SUBJECT OF GULF BRIBERY SCANDAL, DEPUTY SECRETARY
SAID HE ASSUMED DORSEY LETTER HAD SATISFACTORILY CORRECTED
ANY ERRONEOUS PRESUMPTION OF VENEZUELAN INVOLVEMENT.
AFTER NOTING THAT DORSEY THAT SAME DAY, IN TESTIFYING
BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE, HAD IDENTIFIED SOUTH KOREA
AS COUNTRY IN QUESTION, DEPUTY SECRETARY ADDED THAT
AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN WOULD BE ASKED TO RESPOND TO NOTE
WE RECEIVED ON THIS SUBJECT FROM GOV IN ORDER TO CLARIFY
THE RECORD.

7. FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR
CONTACTS WITH DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AND SAID HE HAD BEEN
VERY WELL ATTENDED EVER SINCE ARRIVAL. WITH REGARD
US-VENEZUELA RELATIONS IN GENERAL, HE URGED THAT FRANK
PUBLIC STATEMENTS NOT BE MISINTERPRETED AS QUOTE HOSTILITY
UNQUOTE AND SAID THAT AS HE HAD MENTIONED TO THE SECRETARY,
VENEZUELA IS IN POSITION PROVIDE QUOTE BRIDGES UNQUOTE
FOR US TO LATIN AMERICA AND THIRD WORLD.

8. MEMCON FOLLOWS. INGERSOLL

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